

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23588

This legislation creates a foundation for emergency medical services (EMS) agencies to fill existing gaps in healthcare access, and extend the reach of healthcare providers, by establishing definitions for Community Health EMS, Community Paramedic and Community Health Worker. These definitions allow for EMS agencies to create a framework to build a Community Health EMS system that can be locally tailored to fit the specific needs of Idaho's diverse communities. Access to healthcare varies widely across Idaho.

For those who do not have established primary care, EMS providers are often the initial point of entry into the healthcare system. EMS agencies in Idaho are uniquely positioned to identify, deliver, and coordinate services to those in need.

This legislation enables EMS agencies participating in a Community Health EMS system to increase access to healthcare and facilitate the integration of care with existing community based resources. Community Health EMS leverages existing EMS resources to meet community needs using properly trained personnel operating under physician oversight.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact on the General Fund.

Contact:

Representative Luke Malek
(208) 332-1000